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ANNUAL REPORT



Report on the Administration of the *Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act*

for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2012

Canada



**Report on the Administration of
the *Supplementary Retirement
Benefits Act***

for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2012

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His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada

Excellency:

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the annual *Report on the Administration of the
“Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act” for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2012.*

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

The Honourable Tony Clement
President of the Treasury Board and Minister for FedNor

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Supplementary Benefits.....	1
Funding.....	2
Account Transactions and Membership Statistics	2
Statistical Tables	4

Introduction

The *Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act* (SRBA, or the Act) applies primarily to pensions payable to federal judges under the *Judges Act* as well as other statutes listed in Schedule I of the Act. The Act does not apply to pensions payable under the major federal public service pension plans governed by the *Public Service Superannuation Act* (PSSA), the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act* (CFSA), the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act* (RCMPSA) and the *Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act* (MPRAA).

Supplementary Benefits

The Act makes it possible to provide supplementary benefits for recipients of pensions or allowances payable under the acts or regulations listed in Schedule I of the Act, as at March 31, 2012.

The original *Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act* of 1970 provided for increases in pensions of a maximum of 2 per cent per year. Indexing benefits were extended to employees who retired since 1952. The increases were payable at the age of 60, or earlier under specific conditions. The original Act also applied to pensions payable under the PSSA, the CFSA, the RCMPSA and the MPRAA.

Effective January 1, 1974, the 2-per-cent ceiling on increases was removed, and an annual increase in pensions reflecting the full increase in the cost of living was permitted. The annual increase in pensions is payable starting in January of each year. This increase is based on the percentage increase in the average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 12 months ended on the preceding September 30 over the CPI average for the 12 months ended a year earlier.

The Act was amended in 1975 to permit interest to be paid on returns of contributions at a rate of 4 per cent, compounded annually.

Since 1982, the legislation has required that the increase payable in the first year after a person retires be pro-rated according to the number of complete months of retirement in the previous year.

In 1983 and 1984, the increases were limited to 6.5 and 5.5 per cent, respectively, under amendments to the Act passed in 1983.

In 1992, the Act was amended because changes were being made to the PSSA, the CFSA, the RCMPSA and the MPRAA. These statutes were amended to incorporate within each the authority to provide increases in their respective pensions as if they were determined under the SRBA. Consequently, the Act no longer applies to pensions payable under those statutes.

Amendments to the Act regarding benefits payable under the PSSA, the CFSA, and the RCMPSPA were made retroactive to April 1, 1991. Amendments regarding the MPRAA became effective on January 1, 1992. For more information on these amendments, see the section “Funding.”

Funding

The Act establishes an account known as the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account (the Account) in the Public Accounts of Canada. Plan members who have not yet retired, except the Governor General, contribute to the Account. The government matches these contributions.

Between April 1, 1970, and December 31, 1976, members contributed 0.5 per cent of their salary. Effective January 1, 1977, this rate was increased to 1 per cent.

Interest on the Account is payable at the end of each quarter. It is calculated monthly on the minimum balance in the Account at an interest rate that represents the yield on outstanding Government of Canada bonds having a term to maturity of five years, less one eighth of 1 per cent.

Before January 1, 1974, all supplementary benefits were charged to the Account. Since that date, however, the benefits paid to former contributors have been charged to the Account only until they equal the total amount credited to the Account. Supplementary benefits paid in excess of that total are charged to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Under the 1992 amendments mentioned in the preceding section, the appropriate portions of the Account were transferred to the superannuation accounts established under the PSSA, the CFSA, the RCMPSPA and the MPRAA. These transfers greatly reduced the size of the Account.

Account Transactions and Membership Statistics

The pension benefits were increased (i.e., indexed) by 2.8 per cent in January 2012 (1.4 per cent in January 2011).

During fiscal year 2011–12, total receipts from contributors and the government, including interest, amounted to \$9.6 million (\$9.9 million in 2011). The total amount paid under the Act was \$32.3 million, of which \$20,519 (\$60,975 in 2011) was charged to the Account; the remaining \$32.3 million was charged to the Consolidated Revenue Fund in accordance with subsection 8(2) of the Act. The balance in the Account at the end of the year was \$178.7 million (\$169.1 million in 2011).

Details of the transactions in the Account during the fiscal year appear in Table 1 and Table 2.

On March 31, 2012, there were 1,136 (1,141 in 2011) contributors to the Account and 1,625 (1,642 in 2011) retired members and survivors.

Statistical Tables

Table 1

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account, Year Ended March 31 (\$ thousands)

	2012	2011
Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account, Opening Balance (A)	169,116	159,287
Receipts		
Contributions		
– Members	3,171	3,017
– Government	3,165	3,018
Interest	<u>3,264</u>	<u>3,855</u>
Total Receipts	9,600	9,890
Payments		
Annuities ¹	32,344	33,106
Less Charges to Consolidated Revenue Fund in Accordance with Subsection 8(2) of the Act ¹	<u>32,324</u>	<u>33,045</u>
Net Payments	20	61
Increase (B)	9,580	9,829
Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account, Closing Balance (A+B)	178,696	169,116

1. It should be noted that the above information does not exactly reflect the same information as presented in the Public Accounts of Canada. Annuities and charges to the Consolidated Revenue Fund are supplementary information included to reflect all payments made under the authority of the SRBA. The amounts charged to the Consolidated Revenue Fund are not charged to the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account due to an exclusion under subsection 8(2) of the Act. The amount of charges to the Consolidated Revenue Fund reported in this table is calculated from financial information provided directly from several departments responsible for processing SRBA benefit payments such as the Supreme Court of Canada, the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs Canada, Heritage Canada and others.

Table 2

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account: Details of Receipts and Payments for 2011–12, Year Ended March 31 (\$ thousands)

	Judges	Others	Total
Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account, Opening Balance (A)	168,582	534	169,116
Receipts			
Contributions			
– Members	3,143	28	3,171
– Government	3,143	22	3,165
Interest	3,253	11	3,264
Total Receipts	9,539	61	9,600
Payments			
Annuities ¹	0	20	20
Return of Contributions	0	0	0
Total Payments	0	20	20
Increase (B)	9,539	41	9,580
Supplementary Retirement Benefits Account, Closing Balance (A+B)	178,121	575	178,696

1. In addition to these charges to the Account, \$32.3 million was charged to the Consolidated Revenue Fund under subsection 8(2) of the Act as reported in Table 1. The information in this table is similar to that reported in the Public Accounts.